

# Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



**January 15, 2020 Commissioner's Meeting**

## **6:00 PM –Rowley Light Plant**

Commissioners Present: Bryan DiPersia, Mark Cousins, Sayad Moudachirou. Also in attendance was General Manager Matthew Brown, Office Manager Eric Grover

See attendance sheet for the public sign-in.

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Bryan DiPersia opened the meeting at 6:03 PM

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### ***Citizen Query***

Nobody from the general public participated in this citizen's query.

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### ***Review and Approve Meeting Minutes***

After reading the minutes from the previous meetings session from November 6, 2019 provided, there were no corrections.

*Bryan DiPersia made the motion to accept the regular minutes for November 6, 2019. Mark Cousins seconded the motion. All voted in favor at 6:04 PM.*

After reading the minutes from the previous meetings session from December 11, 2019 provided, there were no corrections.

*Bryan DiPersia made the motion to accept the regular minutes for December 11, 2019. Mark Cousins seconded the motion. All voted in favor at 6:05 PM.*

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### ***Selectman Bob Snow***

Robert Snow came here as a resident and not as a town official. He is part of the Merrimack Planning Valley Commission and two gentlemen from the DOER gave a talk to the group about energy savings. Snow had talked to them via phone and text about wanting to put split duct in his home. He had them do an energy audit through Mass. Save as his primary source of heat is natural gas. Mass Save offers loans, but he can only do it because he has gas appliances in his home. Snow contacted Brad Hill to see if there was anything else out there to get energy savings. DOER put him in touch with the DOER Home Energy Market Value Performance (Home MVP) Program which helped with a home audit. There is a lot of great technology out there, and Snow said he would keep the board up to date if he hears anything future on the program. We can get the word out via social media and our website.

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## ***Managers Update***

- **Wethersfield Street Solar Update:** On December 30, Powerfund 1 took ownership of the solar field after winning it at bankruptcy. They paid off what was owed to the RMLP in the sum of \$207,000 including liquidated damages because the site wasn't energized in the allotted time. It is up and running and we are gathering data on what it is producing. Tim Toomey had a couple questions regarding the load and how it was producing.
- **Community Solar:** Tim Toomey asked if the community solar was still going to be part of the new solar field coming online. Manager Matt Brown said the program will be done but we just wanted to get through the bankruptcy proceedings and get that behind us. Everyone who applied for the program has been put on a spreadsheet and wasn't forgotten. There will be a credit once a year, maybe December, or whenever the time allows for the staff. The process for the program will be a manual entry, so lots of work on the set-up end will be crucial. We are going to revisit this as a whole and let ratepayers know when it will proceed.
- **Yankee Pine Pole Upgrade:** The pole upgrade is complete and paid for by the business. They haven't separated from 300 Newburyport Turnpike but that is up to the customer's electrician.
- **Rowley Ready Mix:** This project was started back in 2014. There are three stepdown transformers that can come down once the project is complete. There is some loss as they are the only customer on the transformers. We should have this done by the end of the month if the customer's electrician can finish his work.
- **Bradford Street Conversion:** The crew is working on the next phase of converting the 5kv to 15KV on Bradford Street. They have pulled the poles on Wethersfield Street and now setting new poles on Bradford. The goal is to do away with the stepdown transformers in front of the VFW. This is the same scenario as the Rowley Ready Mix project.
- **End of the Year Inventory:** There was nothing out of the ordinary there as the crew did a full inventory audit. There were a few adjustments, but all have been made.
- **Office Building Upgrades:** The front office was repainted by an outside vendor. It was decided just to get it done with little interruptions to the RMLP staff. Generally, the crew will jump in on a rainy day to do it, but in this case, it was more cost effective to do it this way. There was a problem with the transfer switch on the generator due to a bad design in the location of the switch. There was a contractor out to add a roof over the switch and the generator company will be out to fix the problem in the next couple days. Lastly Comcast came in to switch out the old equipment for the internet and it should speed things up as there hasn't been an upgrade done in a few years.

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## ***Continued Discussion "Commissioners Year End Report"***

Chairman DiPersia thought maybe a year end report could be rolled out and put into print for our ratepayers to see where we finished the year off with. Manager Matt Brown said the information is there, we just have to put it together and make it look nice with graphs and pie charts. The board said they would be ok to have it done in the Spring as most reports are complete.

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## ***Massachusetts Climate Action Network [MCAN] Muni Summit, Saturday January 25th***

Chairman DiPersia gave a rundown of the agenda for the meeting being held in Belmont. Every six months the MCAN group puts on a meeting and it is open to the public. DiPersia is going to go to the meeting and welcomed anyone else to participate if they liked.



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### ***NEAM Meeting 1/15/20 Littleton***

There was a meeting held at in Littleton today at the NEPPA Training Facility. Manager Matt Brown went to the meeting and found it interesting. There was a discussion by Bob Rodophele regarding the General Legislative Report along with the house bill #2863. A full description of the agenda is attached to the minutes.

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### ***2020 Budget***

Manager Matt Brown gave the commissioners a run down on the draft budget that is on place. We haven't finished closing out the month of December. Once that is done, he will have more concrete numbers. The big capital items are the new digger truck and a new pickup for the superintendent. Bryan DiPersia brought up the idea of looking at a vehicle that could be acceptable to a green community. Brown said he would investigate that. The Operational and Maintenance budget is just a rough number brought forward waiting on year end. The board would like to see a quarterly report of the budget.

*Mark Cousins made the motion to accept the operating and capital budget as it is written, with an operating budget of \$7.388 million and a projected profit of \$57 thousand. The capital budget would total \$756 thousand. Sayad Moudachirou seconded the motion. All voted in favor at 7:12 PM.*

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### ***All Other Items Not Anticipated by The Chair***

Nothing was added by the chair

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### ***Executive Session under GLC 30A, Section 21 a Strategy for Negotiations with Non-Union Personal***

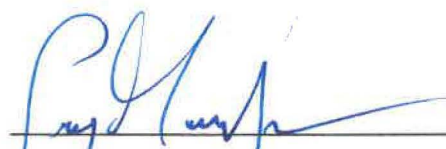
*Bryan DiPersia made the motion to adjourn to Executive Session and not return to regular session, Mark Cousins seconded, and all were in favor at 7:15 PM.*

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Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover

  
Bryan DiPersia, Chairman

  
Mark Cousins, Clerk

  
Sayad Moudachirou, Member